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SECTION 2

Books that authored the credibility gap

These are some of the books that have rekindled the credibility debate in publishing:

* * * *EXCERPTED*

● "Katharine the Great: Katharine Graham and the Washington Post," by Deborah Davis, was killed after one printing by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Another promising book, its publisher nominated it for an American Book Award and had given the author a \$35,000 advance. Davis revealed among other things that Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee had collaborated with the CIA, and that "Deep Throat," Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's alleged Watergate source, was CIA agent Richard Ober. As it turned out, the publisher never asked Davis if she had interviewed Bradlee or Ober. [She hadn't.] Davis, however, sued the publisher for \$6 million alleging

breach of contract. In November, she settled for \$100,000, according to published reports.

● "Poisoning for Profit: The Mafia and Toxic Waste in America," by University of Delaware professors Alan A. Block and Frank F. Scarpitti, appeared to link with the mob the nation's largest handler of hazardous waste, Waste Management Inc., headquartered in Oak Brook. The company filed a \$60 million libel action against publisher William Morrow & Co., but withdrew the suit in March without comment. Morrow, however, was slapped with a \$5 million libel suit—as was author Jody Powell—for four paragraphs in Powell's 1984 book, "The Other Side of the Story." A former U.S. Navy admiral and campaign worker for President Reagan during the 1980 campaign charges he was libeled by Powell, who falsely accused him of spying on the federal government and supervising an espionage operation against the Carter camp.

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